United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

K-451

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

Chestertown Armory

and/or common

Location N/A Quaker Neck Road not for publication street & number N/A vicinity of First Chestertown congressional district city, town 029 24 Kent Maryland county state code code Classification 3. Ownership Status **Present Use** Category X___ public X occupied agriculture district museum X____ building(s) __ private _ unoccupied commercial park _ structure both work in progress educational private residence **Public Acquisition** Accessible entertainment reliaious _ site __ yes: restricted _ object in process х government scientific being considered yes: unrestricted industrial transportation X not applicable Х _ military other: no **Owner of Property** 4. Col. Raymond Clift Contact: State of Maryland Military Department 728-3388 x244 name street & number 231 West Hoffman Street N/A vicinity of Maryland 21201 city, town Baltimore state **Location of Legal Description** Kent County Courthouse courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. street & number Chestertown Maryland 21620 state city, town **Representation in Existing Surveys** 6. Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined elegible? title yes _X_ no federal <u>X</u> state date 1980 county local Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle depository for survey records Maryland 21401 state city, town Annapolis

7. Description MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD ARMORIES THEMATIC GROUP K-451

Condition excellent deteriorated good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unaltered _X altered	Check one X original site moved dateN/A	
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Chestertown Armory is located on the southeast edge of Chestertown in an area of mixed agricultural and medium heavy industrial uses. The brick structure is two stories tall with full basement, and emulates a medieval fortification. Attached to the rear of the 2-story main block is a narrower one-story drill hall. A modern onestory brick garage has been added at the rear of the drill hall. Very nearly the entire building has been coated with white paint; details of original brick work and trim are thereby largely obliterated.

The front (Quaker Neck Road) facade, oriented to the north is composed of two, twobay wide sections which flank a central entranceway itself flanked by two-story towers. The side sections contain two basement windows, 4/3 casement under 4/4 casement under 4/2 panels on the first floor and 4 pane horizontal strips on the second floor. Single strip buttresses run between the windows the entire height of the side sections.

At the center of the front facade, two-story towers project slightly from the front wall plane containing 2/4 casement windows at basement level, 2/4 casement under 2/2 panel at first floor, 2/4 casement under 2 pane horizontal strip at second floor. Centered at the top of the towers are small square stone panels.

The entry is composed of double doors recessed 3-4 feet under an unpainted stone segmental arch. At second floor level 4/4 casement windows under a 4 pane horizontal strip are flanked by 2/4 casement windows under 2 pane horizontal strips. The windows are surmounted by a second segmental arch, also unpainted, projecting 1-2 feet in front of the arch over the door. A band of painted stone molding crosses the center and the center top ends slightly above the roofline of the flanking towers. A small square stone panel is centered just under the roofline of the center section.

A long asphalt topped ramp with stuccoed side walls leads from the street to the front doors.

The west side of the central block contains two windows in the southwest corner, 4/3 casement under 4 pane horizontal strips. At first floor level are two windows, also in the southwest corner, 4/4 casement under under 3/2 stationary panels. At third floor level are three windows, one per bay, 4/4 casement under 4 pane horizontal strips. Four strip buttresses, two bracketing the ends of the center block side and two between the three bays, run from water table to roof.

The east side of the center block is identical to the west side except that the basement level retains all 3 windows, and the first floor has two windows, one rear and one toward the facade. Two windows at first floor level occur in the rear and forward bays.

The rear one story drill hall over full basement is seven bays long punctuated by strip buttresses. Basement windows occur two per bay, 5/2 stationary panels with stone sills and tops under the line of stone molding corresponding to that of the water table on the front block. At first floor level are two windows per bay, 3/5 stationary panels with flat brick arches and brick sills. In the second to last bay metal stairs give access to first floor doors. The east and west sides of the rill hall are identical.

The rear wall of the drill hall reveals a lightly pitched gable roof. A one story brick garage and fenced motor compound seal the rear from the road.

1500–1599	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art	conservation	Iandscape architectur Iaw Iaw Iterature X military I music	re religion science sculpture _X social/ humanitarian
1800–1899 1900– 1946	commerce	exploration/settlement industry invention	politics/government	theater transportation other (specify)

Specific dates	1931	Builde	r/Architect	unknown	
Statement of Sig	gnificance (in o	ne paragraph)	Criteria:	A, C	
			Exceptions:	none	
		Significanc	e Evaluated:	state	

The Chestertown, Maryland Armory is primarily significant for its association with the reorganization and expansion of the National Guard system in the twentieth century. It derives additional significance from its role as a social center for its community, a function it has served continuously since its construction date. Architecturally, the building embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type, including a T shaped plan with a two-story front "head house" section and a one-story perpendicular "drill hall" extending to the rear; its facade is detailed to recall Medieval fortifications, with towers flanking the central entrance and strip buttresses. The Chestertown Armory was built in 1931 for Company G, 115th Batallion of the 29th Division of the Maryland National Guard. As part of the 29th Division, the 115th shares honors bestowed upon the group at the close of World War II, among them distinguished unit citations and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm. Various community groups rent the Armory hall for dances and cotillions, local hospital benefits, and other social functions, and the Friends of the Library hold annual trade shows there.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Quadrangle scale <u>1:24000</u>

Interview with Sgt. 7	Thomas Pinder, Chestertown Arm	ory.	
Vertical files, Kent	County Library, Chestertown.		
Cutcher, Jack, Capt.	History of the 2nd Battalion	, 175th Infantry,	5th Regiment,
Maryland.			

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property <u>approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres.</u>

Quadrangle name Chestertown, Maryland

UT M References

A <u>1 8</u> Zone	4 0 7 8 3 0 Easting	41331961410 Northing
c		
E		
G		

B Zone	Easting	Northing
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F		
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 1

state N/A	nd counties for propert co	de	county	-	code	
state	со	de	county		code	<u> </u>
11. For	m Prepared	By				
name/title	Susanne Moore, H	listorio	c Sites Surv	veyor		
organization	Maryland Histori	cal Tr	ust	date 1980	; revised 7/85	
street & number	21 State Circle			telephone	(301) 269-2438	
city or town	Annapolis			state	Maryland 21401	
12. Sta	te Historic I	Pres	ervatio	n Offic	cer Certifica	tion
The evaluated sign As the designated 665), I hereby nom	nlficance of this property w _ nationalX stat State Historic Preservatio	vithin the e n Officer usion in t	state is: local for the National the National Reg	Historic Prese pister and cert	ervation Act of 1966 (Public ify that it has been evaluated	Law 89-
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OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior K-451 National Park Service For NPS use only National Register of Historic Places received Inventory____Nomination Form date entered Chestertown Armory Item number 10 Page 1

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

In Kent County...on the east side of the state road leading from Chestertown into Quaker Neck:

BEGINNING FOR THE SAME on the east side of the aforesaid state road at a point 40 feet southerly from the intersection of the property of the Red "C" Oil Company and other property of the said Thomas W. Spranklin and running from thence by and with the east side of said road, south 22 degrees and 58 minutes west, 360 feet; thence south 26 degrees and 39 minutes east, 767 feet and 4 inches to Chester River; thence by and with the waters of Chester River north 70 degrees and 4 minutes east, 40 feet; thence north 19 degrees and 56 minutes 210 feet; thence north 22 degrees and 58 minutes east, 170 feet to the lands of the said Thomas W. Spranklin, which lands are being retained by the said Thomas W. Spranklin as a drive-way; thence north 19 degrees and 56 minutes to the aforesaid beginning point and containing $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land, more or less.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property comprises the total parcel historically associated with the resource.